

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-8 stand rejected as being unpatentable over DE 197 53 690 ("Sanyo") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,672,598 ("Koken"). For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1 recites a recording medium playback device including a stopper portion. The Examiner acknowledges that Sanyo does not teach or suggest the recited stopper portion. Office Action at p. 3. To overcome this deficiency, the Examiner relies on Koken. Koken, however, teaches a disc drawer 10 wherein a disc 21 is placed between arcuate disc-positioning ridges 24c on platform 24. Col. 7, lines 43-46. The ridges 24c are not stoppers as recited in claim 1. Further, these ridges 24c are used to position a disc 21 on platform 24 by hand, not to abut against an edge of a disc "inserted from outside into [a] recording medium accommodation unit" as recited in claim 1. Still further, ridges 24c are located on platform 24, not a carriage chassis as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner argues that it would have been obvious to modify Sanyo according to the teachings of Koken because one would have been motivated to provide the carriage chassis of Sanyo with stopper portions as taught by Koken to properly center a disc on a platform. However, this suggested, even if true, fails to cure the deficiencies of the combination of Sanyo and Koken. Neither reference, either alone or in combination, teaches the recited structure. Further, Applicant's claimed stoppers do not serve to center a disc, but to prevent an excess loading motion of a recording medium. Thus, a combination of the teachings of Sanyo and

Koken according to the Examiner's asserted motivation would not result in a recording medium playback device as recited in the claims.

The Examiner does not identify Thus, Koken does not teach or suggest a recording medium accommodation having stoppers as recited in claim 1. As the Examiner acknowledges that Sanyo is absent such a teaching, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Sanyo and Koken for at least this reason. As claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and as claim 5, from which claims 6-8 depend, recites limitations similar to those recited in claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

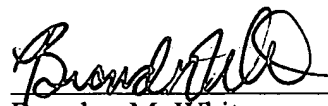
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 17, 2005